

GardenNOTES

 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2001

KEEP THE GARDEN FIRES BURNING

PHOTO © DIANE LAIRD



Find a comfortable chair in a cozy place and get lost in a good book. This issue of Garden Notes is packed with reading suggestions that will be of interest to gardeners and plant lovers: fiction, non-fiction, new and old books. And when you come back with another mug of hot coffee or a glass of wine, be careful not to sit on the cat...

COMPILED BY DIANE LAIRD

NIGHT GARDENING, BY E.L. SWANN.
NEW YORK, HYPERION, 1999.
ISBN # 0786889527

The healing power of gardens and their ability to inspire romance and to absorb tragedy is the theme of this small book that feels more like a charming fable than a novel. Maggie is an Irish-American widow recovering from a stroke when she spies, through a gap in her garden wall, the extensive renovations taking place in the garden next door. She also spies the man in charge, landscape architect Tristan Mallory. Their eyes meet, plant names are



exchanged, holes are dug, and romance blossoms.—Valerie Easton

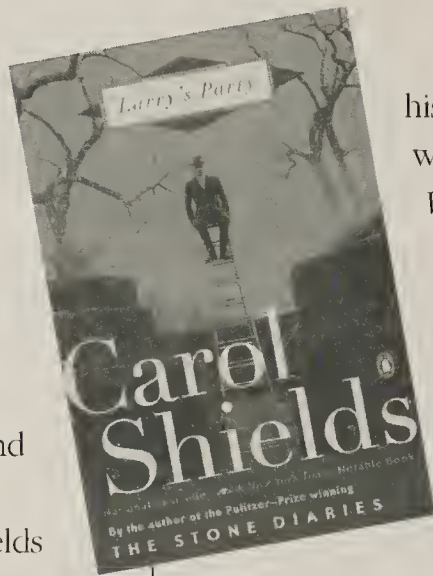
LARRY'S PARTY, BY CAROL SHIELDS.
NEW YORK, VIKING PENGUIN, 1997.
ISBN # 0670873926

Larry is an underachieving florist from Winnipeg, on his honeymoon with a newly pregnant wife, when he is lost and then found in the ancient and classic hedge maze at Hampton Court. He falls in love with the

Continues on next page >>>

GARDEN FIRES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mystery of it, the greenness of the shrubs, the names of the plants. The intricate possibilities of maze design change Larry's life as he first surrounds his little house with a maze, then moves out into the world to become a designer of mazes for the rich and famous. This clever book by award-winning author Carol Shields is constructed a bit like a maze itself, with every point of entry leading back to Larry's creative impulses, his wives, his mistakes, his love of shrubs,



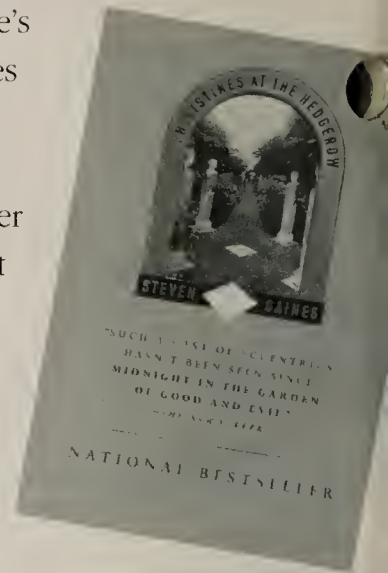
his adventures in the world of horticulture.—
Valerie Easton

**PHILISTINES AT THE
HEDGEROW;
PASSION AND
PROPERTY IN THE
HAMPTONS, BY
STEVEN GAINES.**

NEW YORK, LITTLE, BROWN AND
COMPANY, 1998. ISBN # 0316309419

Gaines is a *Vanity Fair* writer and this
fascinating book reads like a compilation

of that magazine's very best profiles of the greatest eccentrics ever gathered together on one little spit of land. Great power and plentiful money fuel equally great passions and disputes, and gardens, hedges and fences, as well as houses, play a major role in this rollicking, shocking, always fascinating history of the Hamptons.
—*Valerie Easton*



GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL, BY JARED DIAMOND

W. W. NORTON, 1998. ISBN # 0-393-31755-2

WILD ALMONDS CONTAIN enough cyanide to bring down a moose. Cultivated almonds are harmless. But why would anyone start cultivating a poisonous plant?

For a clear, detailed, and convincing answer to this question—and to many other puzzles about how the world of domesticated plants (and most of the rest of human civilization) got to be the way it is—read Jared Diamond's award-winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, one of the best non-fiction books in a decade.

Diamond's book started twenty years ago, on a beach in Papua New Guinea, when a friend asked him a question that cuts to the heart of human history. "Jared," the friend said, "why do you [Westerners] have so much more cargo [material goods, technology] than we do?" To put it another way: Why were guns and radios not invented in Papua New Guinea? Why did the industrial revolution not start in (say) Madagascar? Why didn't Aboriginal Australians use superior naval power to conquer China and sell its inhabitants into slavery in the United States of Africa?

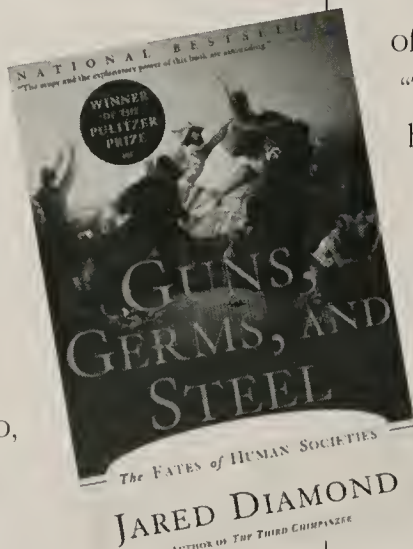
Traditional history either ignores questions on so vast a scale, or else gives an implicitly racist answer about the superiority of white northern Europeans. One of Diamond's main goals is to strip from this idea any lingering shreds of credibility. In its place, he paints a compelling picture that is really just a detailed

portrait of one phenomenon—chance—and its consequences for the shape of human societies.

Agriculture plays a key role, and the most interesting part of the book may be Part Two, a multi-chapter section entitled "The Rise and Spread of Food." But, if you start instead at the beginning, you'll likely discover yourself consuming the whole amazing story. That means learning a lot of proto-history, ethnography, anthropology, linguistics, and population genetics along with your botany and evolutionary theory. (Not for nothing is Diamond's subtitle "A Short History of Everybody For The Last 13,000 Years".) Sounds like hard work? Well, it isn't: Diamond is one of America's most bewilderingly erudite polymaths—but he's also a writer and teacher of genius.

Don't miss Chapter Eight, which makes powerful use of a very odd fact: the world has 56 large-seeded grass species, but only 4 are native to North America, 2 to South America, and 2 to Australia. Early populations in those areas weren't worse farmers than Europeans and West Asians: they just lacked the raw materials. As a direct result, major protein surpluses, without which cities are impossible, occurred centuries earlier in some regions than in others.

Still wondering about those almonds? Read Chapter 7: it's a great story, and a master class on how to write and think about biology, all rolled into one. You could say the same thing for the whole book.—*Richard Farr, Ph.D., Bergerac Communications*



R E V I E W

ARTISTS IN THEIR GARDENS

BY VALERIE EASTON, DAVID LASKIN, AND ALLAN MANDELL (PHOTOGRAPHER).

SASQUATCH BOOKS 2001 ISBN # 1570612447

I BUY DOZENS of gardening books each year and to be frank they all begin to look alike, but every so often one comes along that distinguishes itself above the fray. *Artists in Their Gardens* is one of those great books. The prose is engaging. Countless books are published that tell us which plants to grow and good combinations to use them in. This is not such a book, and thank god. Valerie Easton and David Laskin get at a much more difficult idea — why these people were inspired to garden and the underlying principles in doing what they do. Their words are vivid and precise and their descriptions exciting. It did not make for great bedtime reading because it made my head whirr—too much to think about.

The breadth of creativity starts with Ginny Ruffner's "glorious excessiveness." Her world is rich with complexity, and all elements are embraced and incorporated into her multimedia art. What I find most exciting is gaining an understanding about why she is inspired to practice her art and how her philosophies translate into creating her version of Eden. Ginny is straightforward and embraces all. I love her response when asked about her favorite color:

"Bullshit—I never met a color I didn't like.... How could I choose which color I like best? It's crazy—Which finger do I like best?"

Anne Híridelle's garden near Port Townsend contrasts with all the other artists' gardens in the book, not because of what she includes but for what she



excludes. Her taste for simplicity and serene minimalism emphasize the subtle essence of her ceramics, her view of the world and her garden.

At the end of each chapter is a one-page distillation of each artist's guiding principles. I couldn't resist reading these first; I was never good at waiting for Christmas either. I wanted to understand the basic qualities of the person and his or her garden, and then I read the chapter to gain a deeper understanding why the garden was made.

Not only is *Artists in Their Gardens* filled with informative and insightful prose, it is strikingly beautiful. Several years ago I remember seeing a new name attached to images in the gardening magazines. Being a serious amateur photographer I read the credits. Allan Mandell's work was interesting but undifferentiated; however, I would not say that about his photographs now. The photographs in *Artists in their Gardens* are rich, well crafted, well composed

and tell a story that brings a bigger life to the writing—and I believe his best to date. They are nothing short of spectacular. The artists in this book live their lives dedicated, or should I say enslaved, to the act of creating. What a delight to see the product of their gardens so brilliantly captured in a way that is thoughtful and sensitive. Beyond the photographs is the layout. Karen Schober, the book's designer, has created a book that is fresh and lively. Her use of Allan's work is incredible. No grand long shots used

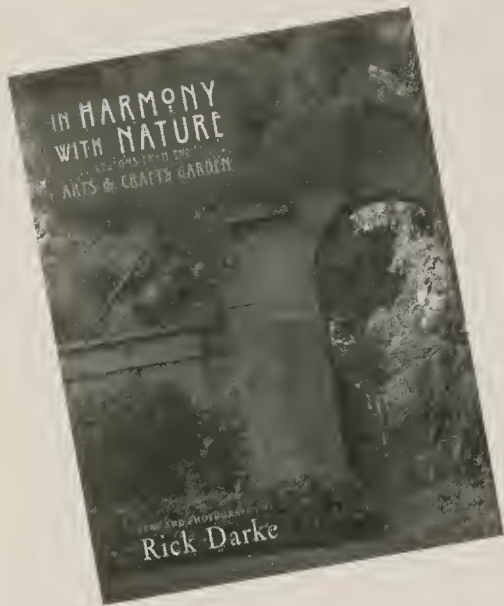
too small or aggrandizing of a detail used too large; the balance is perfect. Her choices for simple, clean type and color blocks for chapter heads and relief are lovely.

I would buy this book even if it weren't for the writing or the great pictures because the image of Johanna Nitzke Marquis's bowling ball pyramid is the opening image on her chapter; and of all the garden ornament I have ever seen, this rainbow-colored monument is my favorite. I love the simple form, the color, the humor of it, the determination and the imagination. It is beautiful, as is her garden. Artistic expression and the creative process are an enigma to many people. Val and David get at heart—the urge to that which drives the artists to create and how that need permeates their lives and, thankfully for us, their gardens. 🌱

—Richard Hartlage is the Director and Curator of the Miller Botanic Garden.

FROM THE MILLER LIBRARY

REVIEWS BY VALERIE EASTON



**IN HARMONY WITH NATURE:
LESSONS FROM THE ARTS AND
CRAFTS GARDEN, BY RICK DARKE.**

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN PUBLISHING
GROUP, INC., 2000.

ISBN # 1-56799-904-2

Anyone who is interested in the art of gardening, the form, texture and shape of plants (and what gardener isn't?) will enjoy this book just for the sheer beauty of its photography. The drama of the design, the flowing masses of herbaceous plantings played off arts and craft structures (birdbaths, sundials, arbors) is captured here in numerous full page color photographs. The arts and crafts ideal of the unity of house and garden is captured by this interplay of the man-made structures and the living plants; roses climbing old stone walls, the heavy crosspieces of pergolas casting shade on rows of fluffy lavender, branching tree limbs captured in stained glass.

The skill of the craftsman and the gardener in melding house and garden shines through in the details of the stone and woodwork, and the lushness of the planting. These design ideas, developed in the mid-eighteenth century in reaction to what was seen as the threat of mechanization, are as aesthetically pleasing today as they

were 150 years ago. And the sturdy, hand-hewn quality of the craftsmanship in juxtaposition with the freedom of the plantings are no doubt needed even more today in our fax, computer and cell-phone world as they were 150 years ago.

Reading Darke's love poem of a book to arts and crafts gardens is like going on a tour of North America and Britain's best gardens, accompanied by a most knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guide. You are allowed entry into the back gardens of all those really cool bungalows, your footsteps through the gardens accompanied by informed discourse on the history of these gardens, and the techniques used to create them. Many of the design ideas translate well to today's smaller gardens, such as dividing space into garden rooms, the use of focal points, such as urns or fountains, to direct the eye, and the importance of screening to give a sense of enclosure within the garden. Darke, an ornamental grass expert from Pennsylvania, has written the definitive, and certainly the most beautiful book, on arts and crafts gardens.

**CHRISTOPHER
LLOYD'S GARDENING
YEAR, BY
CHRISTOPHER LLOYD.**
FRANCES LINCOLN, 1999.
ISBN #0-7112-1533-2

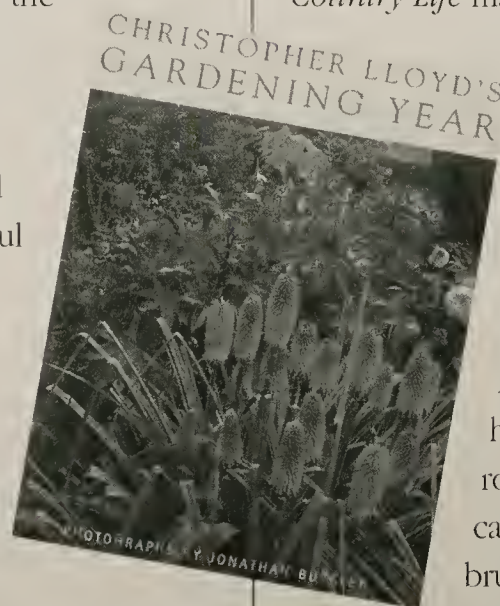
Gardeners move to a different rhythm from the rest of the world, looking to the seasons for their cues rather than the

dates on a calendar. Most of us remember first and last frost dates more readily than birthdays, and mark Halloween by which leaves have already fallen rather than by the fact it is the 31st of October. This is why books that are written seasonally, month by month, such as this new one by Christopher Lloyd, are the most useful and enjoyable of all garden books. They correspond with our own rhythms, with the way we see the world.

Lloyd has lived at Great Dixter in East Sussex, England all of his life, and he is now nearly 80. In this new book Lloyd tells, up close and personal, the story of his garden as it emerges from dormancy in the early spring, carries on through the glories of high summer, and then of its gradual, colorful autumn decline. No one else writes about their garden so intimately, personally, engagingly - of course, he has had plenty of practice, having written a weekly column for *Country Life* magazine since 1963. Lloyd

is famous for his tropical garden, as he was one of the first to extensively use exotic plants in a temperate garden. His chapter detailing the month of August tells the story of how he rid his garden of roses, replacing them with cannas, bananas, brugmansias and dahlias in a riot of hot colors.

Another Lloyd enthusiasm is cooking from the garden, and he writes of the succession of sowing lettuces to provide greens from spring to October, how to



grow fruit and tomatoes. He also loves ornamental grasses, water gardening, vines, flower borders. All the monthly tasks and triumphs of making and caring for a complicated garden are captured here in color photographs and in Lloyd's opinionated and knowledgeable prose. "I am a bit snooty about escallonias," he begins and goes on to tell which are worthwhile to let into your garden. This is a worthwhile book to let into your heart and onto your bookshelf.

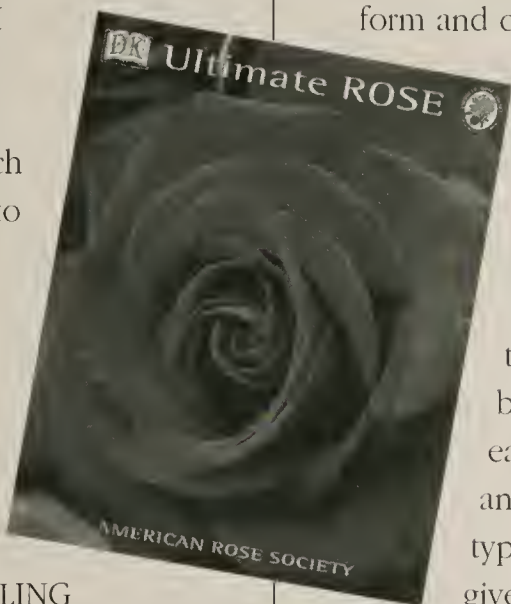
AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

ULTIMATE ROSE. DORLING KINDERSLEY, 2000.
ISBN #0-7894-5206-5

Dorling Kindersely publishes the most beautiful of illustrated books; their expertise with layout and color photography is especially welcome in books on plants and gardens. The minute you open the cover to find front and back end-papers in rose pink, you get a clue as to the quality of this volume. 400 color photographs celebrate the long history of the rose, paying tribute to this most beloved of all flowers.

What flower is more immediately recognized than the rose? Despite this icon status, there is much confusion about the various kinds of roses, thus choosing wisely for the garden can be a puzzle. It is far too easy to be seduced by those silky petals and sweet perfume, but do you really need another hybrid tea? This book can be enjoyed just as a reference book to identify roses, or as an exploration of the history and significance of roses. Because of its arrangement by kind of rose it makes clear the differences between species, noisettes, hybrid perpetuals, etc. The most stunning flowers of all (and of

course you may well have a different opinion) are the old moss roses, with their fuzzy stems and flowers so double as to appear ruffled. Pages are filled with close-ups of breathtaking roses, individual blossoms photographed against a black background to highlight form and color.

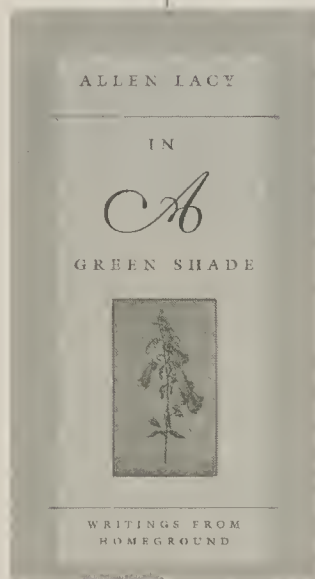


I can't quite make up my mind if the Ultimate Rose is an art book or a garden book, but it doesn't matter. It has managed to capture the magic and compelling beauty of roses, identify each, compare the looks and virtues of the various types, as well as give clear and thorough

information on how to place and care for them in the garden.

ALLEN LACY IN A GREEN SHADE: WRITINGS FROM HOMEGROUND BY ALLAN LACY. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. ISBN # 0-618-00278-9

Lacy is a philosophy professor who loves plants—what a perfect combination for a garden essayist. Collected in this volume are selections from his quarterly newsletter *Homeground* which has delighted gardeners around the world for the last seven years. The newsletter is a rich tapestry of experience and opinion, of plants, weather and musings on digging in the dirt. It is a joy to have in this book a distillation of Lacy's knowledgeable prose,



honed during his five years as garden columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, and seven for the *New York Times*.

"Can there be a scintilla of doubt that the most mysteriously neglected plants in North America at the moment are the cape fuchsias?" asks Lacy and then goes on to explain why we should all be growing at least several *Phygelius* cultivars. He explains how he planted an arbor to drip gourds through its cross-pieces, and how the Aztecs domesticated dahlias from wildlings growing in the mountains of central Mexico. His interests are far-ranging, and he takes his readers along with him on an exploration of all things horticultural.

What makes this book especially

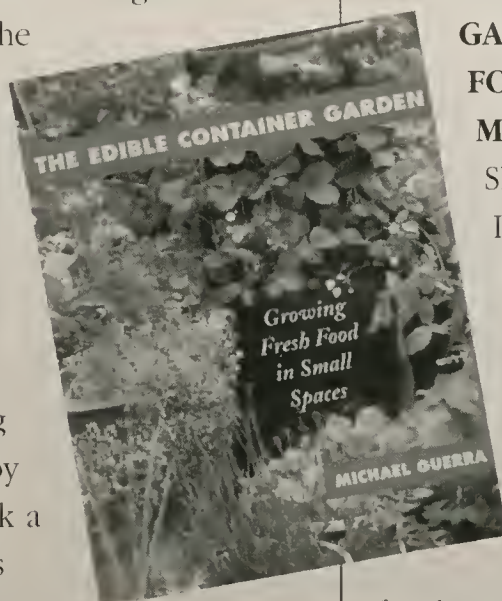
useful is that it comes from Lacy's own first-hand gardening experience working in his small, suburban New Jersey garden. He is faced, like the rest of us, with unexpected storms, late freezes and not enough space to indulge all his plant enthusiasms. The difference is that he is a fine writer who is able to transform his experiences into literature to amuse

the rest of us when we brush the dirt off our hands and come in from the garden.

THE EDIBLE CONTAINER GARDEN: GROWING FRESH FOOD IN SMALL SPACES BY MICHAEL GUERRA.

SIMON AND SCHUSTER, 2000.
ISBN # 0-684-85461-9

It wouldn't matter whether or not a single strawberry or tomato raised in the pots pictured in this book ever made it to the table—they are beautiful ornamental plantings, worth growing just for their looks. But Guerra promises

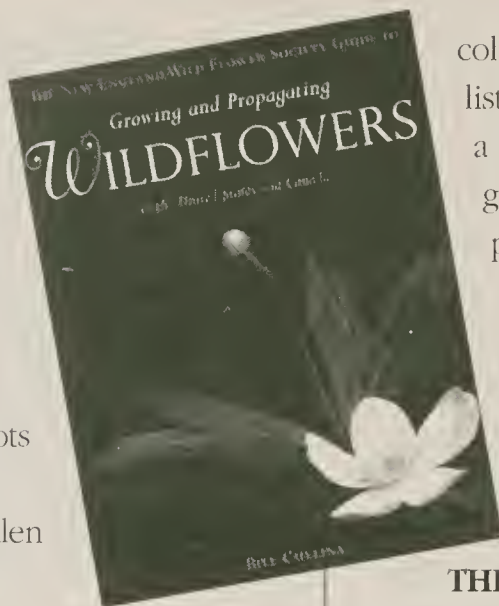


FROM THE MILLER LIBRARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

fresh taste, pesticide-free produce, and the chance to grow a luscious array of fruits and vegetables not available at the supermarket, all in small raised beds, pots or window boxes.

Whether you garden on the balcony of a condominium, the deck of a houseboat, or just choose to pack your garden with ornamentals rather than edibles, this book brings hope that you can easily harvest home-grown food come autumn. Herbs and edible flowers are included in the mix, as flavor-enhancers and garnishes.

"Gardening is like learning to cook," writes Guerra, a British permaculture expert. "Start with the basics and with practice your menu will increase." He starts out with clear instructions about the basics of raised bed construction, soil enrichment, and maintenance of edibles. The most useful and unique part of the book are the chapters entitled "What Shall I Grow?" that suggest the best varieties of salad greens, berries, peas and peppers, as well as a great many more, for smaller gardens. Enlivened by



color photographs, with detailed lists to aid in plant choices, this is a fine introduction to urban food gardening on even the smallest property.

THE NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY GUIDE TO GROWING AND PROPAGATING WILDFLOWERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, BY WILLIAM CULLINA.
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN, 2000.

ISBN # 0-395-96609-4

The New England Wild Flower Society is the oldest plant conservation organization in North America. It celebrated its hundredth birthday by publishing this beautiful and useful guide to identifying, growing and propagating native wildflowers.

Cultivating and appreciating native flora is a first step towards ecological gardening, a concept whose time has come. By choosing to grow the plants that thrive naturally in the conditions your garden offers, you are working with rather than against nature, resulting in ease of maintenance and a reduction in use of water and chemicals. And there are clearly a great many good choices: native columbines, iris, trout lilies,

violets, trillium, even orchids. Some of the loveliest flowers have native species available. And the delicacy of the native species, their simple forms and unadorned beauty, make many of the cultivars we see in the nursery appear overdone and blowsy, like a girl who has over-dressed for the party. Horticulturists have worked for years to make new colors, double forms, larger, brighter flowers—but these small natives have all the appeal of the original, plus they naturally thrive in appropriate conditions.

More than a thousand species of flowers are discussed and pictured, with thorough information on native habitat, cultural requirements, propagation, and design considerations. At the back of the book are lists of plants ideal for specific situations and with certain characteristics; look here to find what species have large leaves or attract butterflies, as well as which do best in dry shade, rocky areas, bogs—and, perhaps most useful of all, wildflowers that are deer-resistant. 

Valerie Easton is Library Manager at the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library located in the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture. Valerie writes the weekly column Plant Life for the Seattle Times Pacific Magazine.



◀ *Library Manager, Valerie Easton (center), guided a tour and answered questions at the Library Open House for NHS members last spring.*

NOT JUST FOR ORCHID LOVERS!



THE ORCHID THIEF BY SUSAN ORLEAN. RANDOM HOUSE; 1999. ISBN # 0679447393

I found this book both entertaining and somewhat frustrating at the same time. What was enjoyable and interesting was all the information and statistics about collection of wild orchids. I found those numbers to reflect a rather sad stage of our botanical history where exploitation for personal purposes reached inexcusable proportions. The review of personalities in the various orchid nurseries was quite amusing and generally consistent with my own observations about collectors—orchids or otherwise.

What was disappointing to me was the main male character of the book—the “thief”—an over-zealous collector with an equally overgrown ego. I didn’t feel the fellow warranted the publicity the book provided and even less the interest the female writer seemed to exhibit in his case.

Quite well written; well edited for nomenclature and technical topics; it almost warranted the two days I invested

in it.—*Richard A. Brown, Executive Director, Bloedel Reserve*

ORCHID FEVER: A HORTICULTURAL TALE OF LOVE, LUST, AND LUNACY BY ERIC HANSEN. PANTHEON BOOKS, 2000. ISBN # 0679451412

One of the best books of an horticultural nature that I have read in a long time is Orchid Fever by Eric Hansen. This book is easy to confuse with The Orchid Thief which was a best seller about a year ago, but let me assure you, they are not the same book. Orchid Fever is a series of essays about the fascinating world of those peculiar people who have contracted the orchid fever bug.

I particularly liked the book because of the descriptions it contains of various eccentric characters who inhabit the world of orchid lovers and growers. For example, in a chapter entitled “Orchids, Guns, and Harpsichords” Hansen describes a young French grower who has achieved cult status in the orchid world. The chapter makes him sound more like a character in a James Bond movie than one would expect of someone who grows plants. It apparently required great resoucefulness on the

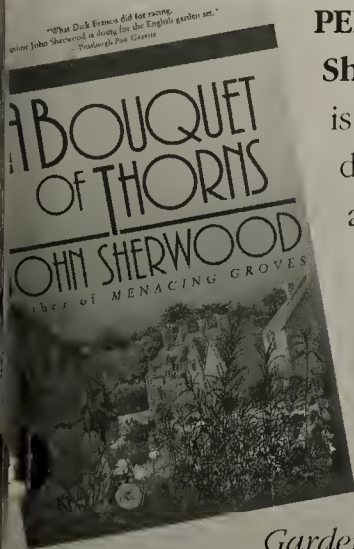


author’s part in order to even arrange a meeting with the man. Hansen describes how on meeting him he discovered that all the rumors he had heard about Paris apartments filled with orchids, guns, a harpsichord, and bullet holes were true.

The book was also interesting because of its point of view on the enforcement of the International Treaty on Commerce In Endangered Species (otherwise known as CITES) as it applies to orchids. The book is filled with anecdotes of heavy handed and uneven enforcement of the treaty, describing raids by machine gun toting booted police on quiet

orchid greenhouses, among other things. It also describes the views of many in the orchid world that CITES is not helping the conservation of orchids and, in fact, may be hurting it. All in all I found the book to be a fascinating view of a part of the horticultural world that I did not even know existed before I read the book. 🌿

—*Linda J. Cochran, Froggy Bottom Nursery, Bainbridge Island*



PERFECT FOR RAINY SUNDAY AFTERNOON READING are the **Celia Grant murder mysteries by John Sherwood**, a British mystery writer who lives in Kent in the south of England. The main character, Celia Grant, is a botanist, gardener, sometimes-landscape-designer and an amateur detective. Plants have scientific names as do insects, and often the predatory beneficial insect is named, so you learn a little about organic gardening along the way. The plots are entwined with horticulture: in *A Bouquet of Thorns*, Celia gets “bullied” into judging her village’s flower show which is described as a snake pit of politics; and clues to murders are sometimes in the language of flowers or otherwise related to the garden of her latest client.

Many of these books are out of print or out of stock but can be found in used bookstores or my favorite source for used books: www.bookfinder.com Try to read them in order if you can: *Green Trigger Fingers*, *A Botanist at Bay*, *The Mantrap Garden*, *Flowers of Evil*, *Menacing Groves*, *A Bouquet of Thorns*, *The Hanging Garden*, *Creeping Jenny*, *Bones Gather No Moss*, and *Shady Borders*.—Review by Diane Laird

A GARDENER ON THE GO

In December 2000 the horticultural community lost the earthly presence of Stephanie Feeney, and we want to take this opportunity to celebrate her spirit. Our condolences to those who did not know her, your loss is even greater than for those who did....

COMPILED BY DIANE LAIRD

"Stephanie Feeney understood instinctively the gift of friendship: she gave it generously and joyously. I count myself incredibly fortunate to have known her, and to have basked in the warm aura of her enthusiasm and amazing knowledge. My consolation is that, though Stephanie slipped away much too soon, she had crowded so much richness into every one of her days and hours. Truly she lived the equivalent of at least one hundred years. To me Stephanie will never be gone. I sense her spirit hovering near me, and I hope and expect that will be so for the rest of my life."—NANCY DAVIDSON SHORT

"Stephanie was a connoisseur and a person of substance. She lived her life as she spent her days—in pursuit of something more useful. I somehow cannot imagine her ever wasting a moment, but this is not to say that I thought her to be compulsive. On the contrary, Stephanie was one that could take an afternoon off and read in her bed outside with the dogs smuggled up at her feet, and think of it as a great accomplishment, as it would have been a great accomplishment. She combined a thirst for knowledge with a skill to impart with it gracefully and a clever function of thought with the ability to appreciate the moments of simple, precious life. Most importantly, she possessed a wiry wit while transcending the desire to harm or degrade if but only to occasionally poke fun at herself. Stephanie's legacy will thrive as the horticultural communities of the Pacific Northwest continue to grow, as it was this to which she was so devoted."—Daniel Hinkley

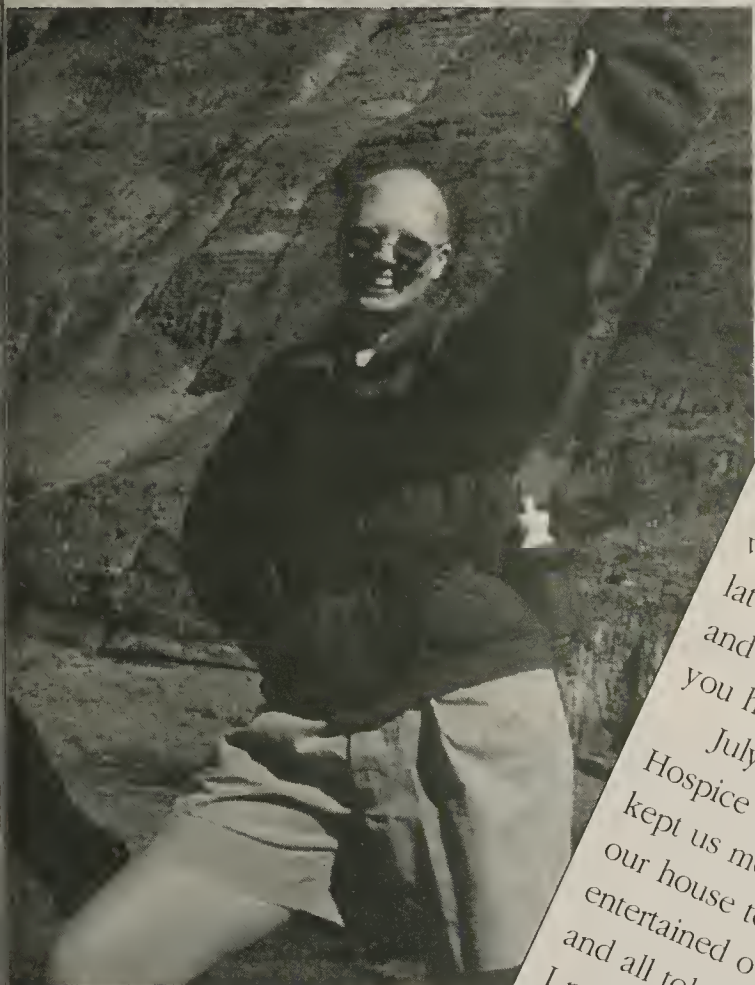
"I still remember the first day Stephanie walked into our garden on a quick visit as she prepared to write her first resource guide. She oohed and aahed her way through the pathways and spent much time transfixed by the sound of the fountains. We were so enchanted by Stephanie, that we quickly ran inside to prepare lunch for her in hopes that we could entice her to stay just a bit longer as she enveloped us in her magic....."—David Lewis *"Stephanie seems to me to have been a truly generous spirit, not only with her time for others, but in the manner in which she conducted her own life in the presence of others. What a treasure she is for us. She will remain so."*—GEORGE LITTLE

"Last June, Stephanie was staying in Seattle for a few days, participating in an experimental cancer treatment at one of the hospitals. Despite the no doubt exhausting tests and procedures, she accepted my invitation for what I hoped would be a quiet dinner, a chance for her to relax. But Stephanie had other ideas. She arrived on my porch with a screen and two carousels of slides, and after she had eaten a hearty meal and talked exhaustively with my delighted 14 year old son about all his classes and activities (a conversation in which he said more than he has to his parents in several years), she proceeded to ready us all for our first trip to England. After several hours of travelogue, I was excited, overloaded and on the edge of exhaustion, a not unfamiliar feeling for me when in Stephanie's company. She, however, traipsed off, still appearing to be full of energy and enthusiasm, worrying a bit that she hadn't had time to do everything she could to assure we'd have a fine trip. We did, and thought of her often as we visited gardens and sites she had recommended. This is the kind of knowledgeable and loving care Stephanie took of her friends, and I miss her often and feel far the poorer for the lack of it."—Valerie Easton

"Stephanie, early on, introduced me to the writings of Anne Morrow Lindbergh who said that a relationship should be a tango—the partners must each strive to move gracefully and beautifully with each other, without holding too tight. On Sunday nights, Stephanie and I often "dressed for dinner." I would put on a suit and tie; she would wear a dress, her pearls, and her Shalimar. If the wine was particularly good, we would occasionally engage in a literal tango in the privacy of our own living room. A couple of years ago, when she was first diagnosed with cancer, she gave me a card that pictured an older couple, embraced in a dance, in an open field of grass. The caption says, "Let there never be a last dance." It is beside my desk, now, as I write."—LARRY FEENEY

STEPHANIE FEENEY: AUGUST 16, 1948 ~ DECEMBER 5, 2000.

REMEMBERING STEPHANIE FEENEY



"Don't Let It Keep You Down!"—card to friends after first cancer treatments; climbing in the Canadian Rockies, summer 1998

(An excerpt from Stephanie's)
FALL ❧ MISSIVE
30 September 2000

Greetings from the misty, moisty shores of lovely Lake Whatcom,

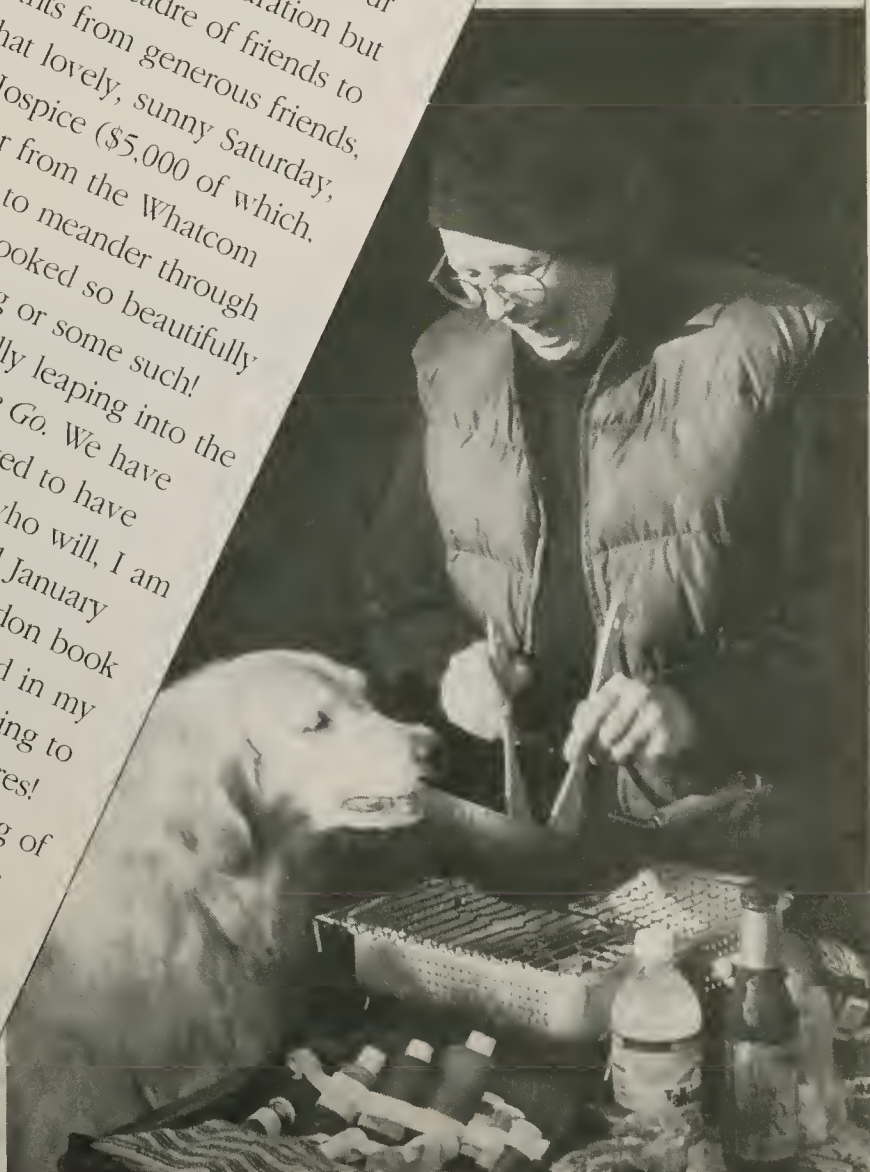
My correspondence has fallen off over the past couple of months but I am anxious to convey responses to so many people who have been in touch that I have decided to put together a general note. I can with great cheerfulness say that today is the first time in several weeks that I have felt just like my old self—and it is such a relief!!...I am leading a more sedate life than normal—sleeping whole days when a fit of fatigue comes on (actually most days lately). I would say this is the biggest side effect I am facing now and the primary reason people have not heard back from me when you have called or written.

July was noteworthy for a number of events. As a recap, our Hospice benefit garden tour was a lot of work in preparation but kept us mercifully busy, brought a remarkable cadre of friends to our house to help, brought treasured plants from generous friends, entertained over a thousand guests on that lovely, sunny Saturday, and all told brought in over \$15,000 for Hospice (\$5,000 of which, I must humbly note, was a gift in my honor from the Whatcom Horticultural Society). It has been such a joy to meander through the garden all summer and fall—it has never looked so beautifully groomed. Makes a girl want to throw a wedding or some such!

This is the time of year I am traditionally madly leaping into the fray on the *Resource Directory* or *Gardeners on the Go*. We have sold the Directory to Sasquatch Books and am relieved to have passed this major part of the life over to a publisher who will, I am sure, do it "justice." The 9th edition should be expected January 2002. I have felt that to try to bound forward on the London book would be too exhausting, but with so many things changed in my life, I am going to dabble at it as something that gives meaning to my daily existence. We will also plan for a few more adventures! Again, I want to reiterate and emphasize that the outpouring of friendship, encouragement and the appreciation for my work has been extraordinarily beneficial in meeting this challenging time. Thank you all so much for taking the time to think about me (and Larry, too!!)

Stephanie

Emma "helping" with the stir fry; Mendocino Coast, June 2000



PHOTOS: LARRY FEENEY

◀ Stephanie in the garden at Strawberry Point, 1999

NHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS — FEB

DATE, DAY & TIME	EVENT NAME	FEATURED SPEAKER	TYPE OF EVENT
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February 21 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

Spice Up Your Garden with
Great Design Ideas

Ciscoe Morris, KIRO radio personality and
Manager for Grounds & Landscape, Seattle
University

Slides & Lecture

March 14 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

Planning and Planting Our
Shade Garden

Marietta O'Byrne, co-owner of Northwest
Garden Nursery in Eugene

Slides & Lecture

April 11 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

Problem Solving in the
Perennial Garden

Carrie Becker, co-designer of the NPA
Border

Slides & Lecture

May 6
Sunday
5:30— 8:30

A Scholar's Garden
A Glimpse into China

ULTIMATE GARDEN AUCTION

May 23
Wednesday
8:30— 2:30

Tour & Shopping Trip to
Heronswood

TOUR & SHOPPING TRIP

Bus Tour
& Lunch

May 23 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

Deciduous Divas:
Spectacular Small Shrubs
and Trees

Roger Gossler, co-owner of renowned
Gossler Farms Nursery in Eugene

Slides & Lecture

July 21
Saturday
8:30— 4:30

An Eden of One's Own:
Innovative Residential
Design

Dan Pearson, Valerie Easton
George Little & David Lewis,
Jeff Mendoza

Symposium
& Lunch

July 22
Sunday
9:00— 3:00

A Private Eden Tour

GARDEN TOUR

Bus Tour
& Lunch

September 14 (Fri)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

My Garden and
How I Do It

RARE PLANT AUCTION
Thomas Hobbs, nursery owner and author
Shocking Beauty

Plant Auction
Slides & Lecture

September 14 & 15
Friday, 2:30— 6:30
Saturday, 9:00 - 4:00

Fall Plant Sale
First Day
Second Day

ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE
(Friday Afternoon & All Day Saturday)

September 20
Thursday
8:30— 2:30

Tour & Shopping Trip to
Heronswood

TOUR & SHOPPING TRIP

Bus Tour
& Lunch

October 10 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

Building the Award-
winning 2000 Chelsea
Flower Show Exhibit

Rosie Atkins, Editor-in-Chief, *Gardens
Illustrated*

Slides & Lecture

November 14 (Wed)
7 pm Reception
7:30 Begin

The Latest Perennial
Planting Trends from
Germany

Anja Maubach, nursery owner

Slides & Lecture

ARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 2001

DESCRIPTION	COST: MEMBER / NON	LOCATION
He will tell you how you can spice up your garden using everyday garden stuff. He will delight and inspire you with practical solutions to old problems that will enliven your evening.	\$5 / \$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
She will fix those shade garden blues by sharing with you her favorite plants and plant combinations for the woodland garden. Her knowledge is hard won from years of first-hand experience.	\$5 / \$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
She will share the tricks of the trade on how to create a spectacular problem free perennial garden. She will offer lists of trouble-free plants that will make your garden spectacular with less work.	\$5 / \$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
This annual spring event is a garden party, silent auction and live auction to benefit the Joseph C. Miller Horticultural Library. The garden party includes an appetizer buffet and cash bar.	\$65 Limit: 150	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
This special bus tour will take you to Heronswood Nursery in Kingston and will feature a guided tour of the garden and an opportunity to shop to your heart's content.	\$65 / \$85 Limit: 20	Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
Barb Fossler will show you deciduous divas that will tempt even the most sophisticated gardener. Learn which trees and shrubs have sensational flowers, fruit, or fall color for your garden.	\$5 / \$10	Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
Local national and international speakers share great ideas on structuring your garden, design ideas, and incorporating art and accents for dynamic landscape effects in the small garden.	\$80/ \$100 Limit: 200	Museum of History & Industry 2700 24th Ave E
See exceptional gardens that illustrate exciting design ideas for your urban garden. You will see a wide variety of styles all executed with flair and maintained to perfection.	\$65/ \$85 Limit: 44	Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
Event includes wine & cheese reception and rare plant auction. Bobbs will share the inspirations and design process that created his much published and acclaimed personal garden in Vancouver.	\$15 / \$20 Limit: 150	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
The Puget Sound's best growers bring fabulous plants to the sale and will be on hand to advise on the selection and care of their plants: roses, hydrangeas, herbs, rhodies, fuschias, shrubs, grasses and more.	Free	Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
This special bus tour will take you to Heronswood Nursery in Kingston and will feature a guided tour of the garden and an opportunity to shop to your heart's content.	\$65 / \$85 Limit: 20	Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
Atkins will illustrate how the award-winning garden exhibit at the 2000 Chelsea Flower Show Exhibit was designed, created, and built.	\$5 / \$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st
A third generation nursery owner and internationally noted German garden designer, Anja Hahn, will talk about perennial planting styles for the new millennium.	\$5 / \$10	NHS Hall Center for Urban Horticulture 3501 NE 41st

PLANTS MAGAZINE

A strange but wonderful hybrid in the world of gardening and plants.

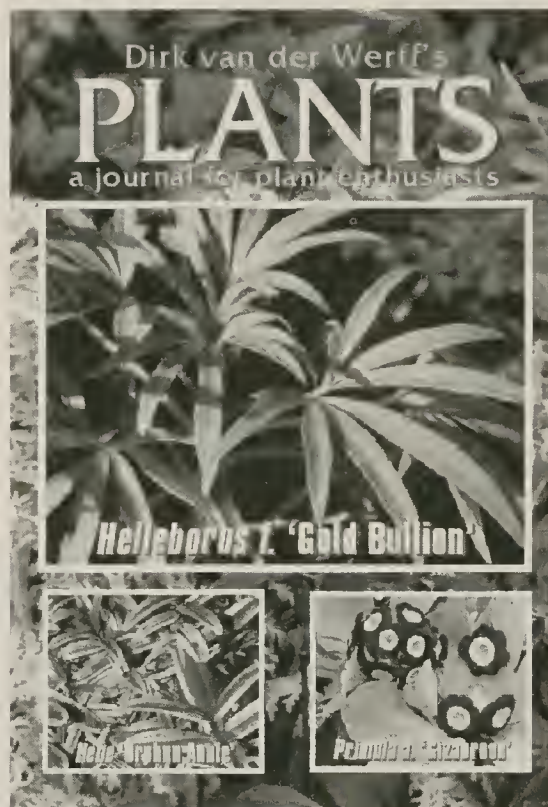
BY DIRK VAN DER WERFF

I STARTED THIS MAGAZINE some five years ago when I decided to compile a newsletter to distribute among friends who were interested in new plants, unusual plants and rare garden plants. Our interests in gardening had moved to the point that growing, buying and propagating unusual or new garden plants was becoming a passion, and I in particular was very interested in the origins of new garden plants. I'm not a plant professional, indeed I have no professional qualifications in horticulture at all. And I'm not really a journalist; but I am a plant enthusiast, a plantaholic possibly, who has a passion for all things to do with garden plants.

What started in my mind as a newsletter soon grew into a color launch magazine with a print run of 500! Unfortunately, I didn't know much about magazines, but I have worked on newspapers as a photo journalist and picture editor in the North East of England for 20 years, so I had some overall knowledge—and I had completed a graphic design course at art college in my teens. I had also been writing about plants and gardening for various local newspapers for 15 years or so, after my editor at the time told me that I had to, as I had a new garden (my wife and I had just married...) and readers wanted to "know all about the pitfalls and successes of a virgin gardener."

I completed a desktop publishing course at college at the age of 37, bought an Apple Mac and printer, and Issue 1 was printed with a loan from my parents and whatever small savings we had. Luckily, it sold out and perhaps one third of those initial subscribers are still with me five years later.

I hadn't realised that there would be an overseas market for my sourcebooks of information and contacts about new rare and unusual plants, but word of mouth spread about the globe among plant enthusiasts, nurserymen, breeders and other interested parties. I now have subscribers in 26 countries around the globe.. amazing. The Internet was a great help, too. More than 55 percent of my subscribers are now overseas, and ten percent of them are in the Pacific Northwest where news of PLANTS magazine originally filtered out from the late,



great Stephanie Feeney and her review of the magazine which she called "This marvellous British publication."

I never realised how global the new rare and unusual plants business was. Seeds, plants and micro propagated material whizz about the globe among friends, collectors and breeders as well as large multi-national companies eager for a small part of the lucrative worldwide trade in new garden plants. What can be a hugely successful new perennial in the UK can also be on the market and selling in huge quantities in New Zealand and the US and Japan within another couple of years. Tender summer plants can be stars across the world in even less time!

Plant enthusiasts and keen gardeners as well as plant professionals and breeders can now also make a tidy sum of money by licensing their new garden plants to companies who represent them.

Subscribers use my magazine as a signpost to track down suppliers, breeders, specialists and nurseries who sell or grow the plants that they are interested in. You will either love or hate PLANTS depending on how much hunger you have for more information about new rare and unusual plants, and frustrated when you realise that it may be a couple of years before a fantastic sounding or looking plant within the pages can be yours and growing in your own garden!

PLANTS is now at Issue 21, and I still produce it and the web site in my "spare" time. With three young children and my wife to care for, too, life is a little bit hectic; but with the help I get from my worldwide band of subscribers (and I like to think of many now as my friends....) the magazine is bigger and better than ever with 52 pages including 12 pages in full colour to show off these new rare and unusual plant species and garden varieties at their best! 🌱

Dirk van der Werff is the Editor / Publisher of PLANTS Magazine; email: dirk@plants-magazine.com and subscription information: <http://www.plants-magazine.com/> The Miller Library also has the current and back issues of the magazine.

MY FAVORITE WATER GARDEN PLANTS

BY GEORGE LITTLE

WELL, WATER PLANTS! All of 'em. But some of our favorites are *Typha minima*—dwarf cattail; *Lysimachia punctata* 'Alexander'; any *Nelumbo* (lotus); and *Hedychium coronarium* 'White Butterfly'.

The *Typha* looks just grand on top of an 8' foot tall dripping column. In the summer the lovely narrow green vertical leaves respond beautifully to the breezes and throughout the winter the leaves are a light cinnamon color with little mahogany-colored "cats". Wonderful.

We have the *Lysimachia* in an Egyptian dripping column painted with blues and greens. The shoots in spring are pink and white, maturing in summer to 24" tall spikes of green and white sparked by bronzy-yellow flowers. Looks marvelous under planted with another favorite: *Myosotis palustris* 'Mermaid', a blue-flowering, water forget-me-not.

Lotuses? Anyone who has seen a stand of Lotus in bloom will know they are indescribably beautiful. They are in our greenhouse pool, the leaves floating around on their stems like big jade-green UFO's, and the flowers are huge many-petaled bowls of fragrance. Super-wow. If you have a warm place to grow them, it is worth any thing you have to do!

Then there is my ginger—*Hedychium coronarium* 'White Butterfly'. Couldn't do without it. That fragrance is the best. And we like to use the structure of the tall frond-like leaves as supporting role for other tropicals. Stokes says that this one is hardy in zone 8, even zone 7, but I always put it back into the greenhouse so it just gets bugger and bigger, eventually too heavy to carry. Then what?

Zantedeschia aethiopica 'Green Goddess'. This gets huge in our garden in a large shallow pot just under the surface of the water. The green and white flowers look wonderful with just about everything and it is as hardy as can be. We placed it in a pool at the base of a wall which reflects the summer warmth (notice I don't say heat!).

Water lilies are, of course, the soul of a water garden; and there are so

many kinds, both tropical and hardy, large and small, that anyone can have one blooming all summer. We like to keep some in pots of water in groups of other potted plants and at varying levels. There are some truly wonderful tropical cultivars, such as 'Dauben', a small lily with light blue fragrant flowers, great for containers; 'Green Smoke', a favorite of mine with strange green-blue-turquoise very fragrant flowers by which you will be surprised and hypnotized; all of the tropical water lilies are beautiful, and there are many.

The **hardy lily** we like the best is 'Helvola', a tiny miniature with 2 1/2" mottled leaves and 1" pale yellow flowers floating on the surface of the water. We keep it in a blue morning-glory shaped pot. (Note: Tropical water lilies can usually be identified by the fact the flowers stand above the water on stalks while hardy water lilies almost always have the flowers floating on the water surface.)

Iris laevigata 'Variegata' is a sparkling plant for the pool edge or right in the water in a pot. The variegations are clear white and green, not yellowish and green, and its flowers are lavender-blue. Great companion plant for the next entry.

Colocasia esculenta forms and cultivars: 'Black Magic' is the one for the iris above. Nearly coal black stems and leaves are garnet red when the sunlight shines through them. All the *Colocasias*, I think, can grow right in the water in a pot. Best to take them in for the winter in our climate, as they take so long to show up again if left in the ground. 

George Little is an artist and half of the team of Little and Lewis. Their Bainbridge Island garden has appeared in gardening books, magazines and television programs in several countries. George Little and David Lewis will be speaking at the 2001 Northwest Flower & Garden Show (Friday evening) and are speaking in the NHS summer symposium July 21 ("An Eden of One's Own").

A small pond stuffed with plants in the Little and Lewis studio garden



NHS BULLETIN BOARD

Hey Ciscoe!!



Do you have friends or family who love to garden but are afraid to join NHS because they think members of a horticultural society speak botanical Latin? They're probably fans of one of our favorite members, Ciscoe Morris, shown here with Kokie. Bring shy gardeners to **Ciscoe's February 21 slide show and**

talk for NHS: "Spice Up Your Garden with Great Design Ideas." We'll have them for life! (They might also have a chance to spot the Mysterious Mary, aka Ciscoe's wife.)

VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS & JOINING

If you would like to become more active in NHS by joining a committee or helping at our events, please leave a message at the NHS office and we'll get back to you right away (we never say "no" to an offer of help!): (206) 527-1794. You can also get membership information by leaving a message at this number.

The Library Auction Committee is seeking garden-related auction items from businesses and individuals. Even moss-covered garden ornaments are a "find" for the auction-goer with a new garden! Please leave a message for Pat Riehl at the NHS office (number above) if you have a donation. Thank you!

LIBRARY AUCTION MAY 6!



Please reserve 5 p.m. Sunday, May 6, because we know that you will want to attend the Sixth Annual Ultimate Garden Party and Auction.

JOIN US FOR WHAT IS SEATTLE'S ORIGINAL and still finest charitable auction to feature items dedicated to gardens and garden design. You will enjoy an elegant evening with friends, and have the opportunity to come home with new and exciting treasures for your garden. Choose from a wonderful assortment of rare plants, books, pots, and statuary. Garden design and professional services, as well as the opportunity to tour fine private gardens, will all be on the auction block. This year we will travel across the Pacific for "A Scholar's Garden: A Glimpse into China". In an ancient tradition, the Scholar would have a Garden. From within this Garden the Scholar would produce and enjoy Poetry, Calligraphy, Science and Art. The Garden is the place where learning and wisdom are honored; we hope you will join us there.

To make the evening even more special, all funds raised will be used to support the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library. The Northwest Horticultural Society is proud to support the Miller Library. Through previous years' auctions and generous private donations, over \$140,000 has been raised and invested in an account managed by The Seattle Foundation. This will help ensure the stable financial future of the Library and its dedicated staff and volunteers. The Library is a fine example of what makes living in the Pacific Northwest so special. Please be sure to show your support.—Daniel Zatz

NHS BULLETIN BOARD

Clear Your Clutter With Feng Shui by Karen Kingston

This is a wonderful little book—all you need to qualify as an interested reader is clutter; and you don't particularly need to have an interest in feng shui—although I cannot believe this book won't lead you to another on the same subject.

The point is, **GARDENING MAGAZINES AS CLUTTER!** If you hate to throw them away because you might need them, visit the Miller Library's web site page which lists the periodicals stored in the library:
<http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/serials/title.html>
The Miller Library has every issue of *Horticulture Magazine* since 1964, *Garden Design* since the 1982 "Premier Issue," *Fine Gardening* since 1988. They even have the internationally-known *Garden Notes* (published by NHS) since 1993...and hundreds of other titles.

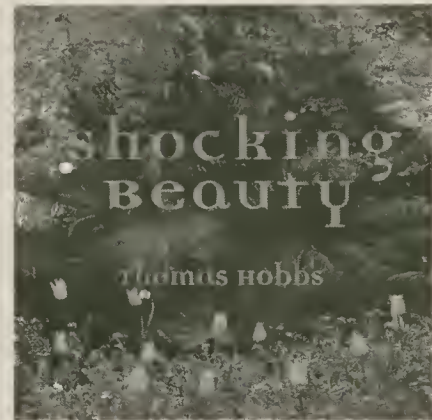
—Diane Laird



In Appreciation

The Northwest Horticultural Society gratefully acknowledges receipt of the bequest from the **Estate of Helen O'Brube, a founding member of NHS.** The funds have been reserved to sponsor an intern for the Education Committee which organizes NHS's lectures, tours and symposiums.

2001 Plant Sale! Thomas Hobbs Lecture! Rare Plant Auction!



Mark your calendars: Our annual plant sale is **September 14 and 15.** We will again be at CUH and the best growers in the area will be represented. Last year we had over 30 growers and we hope to top that this year.

We would like you to join our Plant Sale Planning Committee which is forming now; the volunteers on this committee have very fun periodic meetings to plan the event and in September work with the growers at the sale, special lecture and plant auction. Joining the Plant Sale Committee is the perfect opportunity to meet and make friends with other members of NHS as well as the interesting and talented nursery owners. Don't be shy! Sign up at our monthly lectures or by contacting JoAnne Quinn at 206-285-5045 or emailing her at jtquinn10@hotmail.com It's really a lot of fun.

We have two new special events for this year's sale. **Thomas Hobbs will speak at the plant sale on Friday September 14.** Tom is a Canadian author, garden designer and the owner of Southlands Nursery. He lives in the Vancouver area. He is the author of *Shocking Beauty* which is one of the most popular gardening books NHS sold last year at our lecture series, symposium and plant sale. Thomas Hobbs' gardens have been featured in international gardening magazines, *House Beautiful*, *Traditional Home*, and *Gardening Life*. **After his lecture there will be a wine and cheese reception and a rare plant auction** featuring plants that are difficult to find at local nurseries.

COME OUT and make the 2001 plant sale the best sale NHS presents for the membership and for the community to date. Our success at this annual event allows NHS to make end-of-the-year grants. Help make it a great success.

—Laurie Coleman

SHE WAS QUITE A LADY

BY DIANE LAIRD

EVEN IN HER SEVENTIES Emily G. Moore made an impression with her beauty and grace and energetic spirit. She had presence and style and retained the intelligence of the young woman who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania at age 19.

Emily was very knowledgeable about plants and gardened with a passion and for the pleasure of gardening, never striving for a showplace garden nor afraid to get dirt under her fingernails—although it wasn't there for long. She approached horticulture with the same energy as her other endeavors, learning all she could through experience and her travels to gardens in England and France. She made 38 trips to Europe with her husband of 52 years, Dr. John Moore.

In 1989, Emily began her 10-year stint on the board of *Pacific Horticulture Magazine* and served as a Vice President and Chair of the Finance Committee. Dick Brown, current president of the board of *Pacific Horticulture* said, "In her participation on the board, Emily's most important contributions were in the area of finance; she brought us from a cookie jar mentality of handling our money to a much more sophisticated level of investment and return."



Emily began her career in Philadelphia as a Human Resource Analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank after her college graduation. Later, in addition to serving on the board of *Pacific Horticulture Magazine* and while devoting herself to her husband, four children and six grandchildren, Emily was active in her Tacoma community, serving as President of the Tacoma Junior League, President of the Aloha Club of Tacoma, Board Member of both the Tacoma Garden Club and the Northwest Horticultural Society, and Board Member of the Children's Home Society.

It was in 1948 in Philadelphia that Emily married her husband John Moore, and a few years later they moved to Tacoma where they spent the rest of their married lives together. John remembers Emily with pride, "She was a joy, it was love at first sight, it's been a ball; we were blessed." In the months following her death on June 2, 2000, those reminiscing about Emily frequently described her as "...such a lady...." To this, John Moore adds, "She was a grand lady. When she wore her pearls, you knew damn well they were real." 

This article first appeared in Pacific Horticulture Magazine.

ENERGETIC, FUN, WITH A KEEN INTEREST IN THE CITY *Martha Lindberg Isaacson, 1901–2000*

BY DIANE LAIRD

IN THE MID-EIGHTIES, MARTHA LINDBERG ISAACSON was honored by her husband, Henry C. Isaacson Sr., and three children through their gift of \$300,000 to the University of Washington in her name. The gift made possible the Isaacson Building, at the Center for Urban Horticulture, which houses offices for horticultural organizations, a board room, and classroom space. Many of us have enjoyed gathering in the Isaacson Classroom or Board Room during NHS events.

Martha is remembered very fondly by her friends as a person with a wonderful sense of humor; a person who was energetic and fun with a keen interest in the city and the community and who helped people share in that community. She is said to have dressed to match her personality: beautifully, conservatively but snappily, and with color. She was part of a small group of Garden Club of America women from around the country who formed a Rare Plant Group over 30 years ago. Her niece, Barbara Newell Lindberg remembers, "One time years ago we were in London, and there was Aunt Martha with 'the girls' [the plant group] having a ball....she never turned down anything—it was all a joy; she loved sharing...." Mrs. Isaacson was past president of the Seattle Garden Club and the Lake Washington Garden Club, on the boards of NHS and Children's Orthopedic Hospital and director and officer for many terms for the Garden Club of America. Martha Lindberg Isaacson's spirit and energy are an important part of the rich heritage of our Northwest horticultural community. 

GREAT PLANT PICKS:

A New Plant Awards Program from the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden

BY LINDA PLATO

GARDENERS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR OPINIONS. Be it compost or bulb sources, there is no shortage of debate. Imagine, then, the excitement of having over thirty of the Pacific Northwest's most talented horticulturists meet to recommend the best plants for this temperate region, known for its plethora of plant availability and ideal growing conditions. That's precisely what happened in the inaugural meetings for the Great Plant Picks, a new plant awards program funded by the Pendleton and Elisabeth Miller Charitable Trust and administered by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle.

GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

The first order of business involved narrowing the scope of the awards program to the maritime Pacific Northwest: north of Eugene, Oregon and south of Vancouver, British Columbia. Victoria, British Columbia was selected as the westernmost point, while the Cascade Mountains were chosen to mark the eastern boundary.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

In selecting committee members, emphasis was given to geographic diversity, with equal representation from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. In all, thirty-one horticulturists were asked to volunteer on the selection committee. The committee was then divided into three teams, each to focus on a distinct group of plants: trees and conifers; shrubs and vines; and perennials.

SELECTION CRITERIA

General plant selection criteria were sent to the committee prior to the first meeting. It was agreed that all plants should:

- ▶ be hardy in USDA zones 7 and 8
- ▶ be long-lived
- ▶ be vigorous and easy to grow by a gardener of average means and experience
- ▶ be reasonably disease and pest resistant

- ▶ have a long season of interest and preferably multiple seasons of interest
- ▶ be available from at least two retail plant sources
- ▶ be adaptable to a variety of soil and fertility conditions
- ▶ not require excessive moisture (with the exception of aquatic plants)
- ▶ not be invasive or overly vigorous in colonizing the garden or larger environment

SELECTION PROCESS

The Great Plant Picks selection committee members were asked to nominate at least five and no more than ten plants prior to the initial meeting in Seattle. None of the three lists had fewer than ten plants to begin, and the compiled nomination list is impressive in its own right. The 2001 Great Plant Picks are the result of invigorating debate and the accumulated knowledge of many talented horticulturists.

NEXT STEPS

The Great Plant Picks will be promoted through point of sale labeling and our website (www.greatplantpicks.org). The

goal is to have all of the plant information available on the website so that growers, retail nurseries, landscape designers and architects, educators, and gardening enthusiasts can take advantage of the selection committee's work.

Elisabeth C. Miller tirelessly advocated the identification and use of superior plants for the Pacific Northwest garden, and we are happy to continue her efforts in the Great Plant Picks plant awards program. For more information about the program, please visit our website at www.greatplantpicks.org. 

Linda Plato is a horticulturist and the coordinator for the Miller Garden's Great Plant Picks awards program.

This article first appeared in Pacific Horticulture Magazine.

2001 GREAT PLANT PICKS

TREES & CONIFERS

Acer griseum
Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'
Cornus kousa var. *chinensis* 'Milky Way'
Crataegus x lavalleei
Pinus parviflora 'Glaucua'

SHRUBS & VINES

Corylopsis pauciflora
Fothergilla gardenii
Hydrangea quercifolia 'Snow Queen'
Rhododendron 'Ken Janeck'
Schizophragma hydrangeoides
 'Moonlight'

PERENNIALS

Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'
Helleborus foetidus
Nepeta 'Walker's Low'
Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'
Pulmonaria longifolia ssp. *cevennensis*

PROPER PRUNING FOR BLUEBERRIES MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

BY CAROL SAVONEN;

SOURCE: BERNADINE STRIK, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

PROPER PRUNING OF HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRIES can make the difference between a mediocre and a bumper crop, according to Bernadine Strik, berry crops specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

The best time to prune highbush blueberries is from January to early March, during the dormant period.

Research has shown that annual, moderate pruning results in bushes with the fewest canes, but with the greatest yields and largest fruit, she said. When plants are not pruned or pruned too lightly, they become dense with weak, twiggy growth. They fail to develop strong new wood for future fruit production and have small fruit.

Severe pruning leads to the production of fewer, larger berries and more new wood. Annual pruning helps give consistent production of quality fruit.

"If bushes are pruned only occasionally, then many young canes will be produced the year after the heavy pruning," said Strik. "These canes will age together and become unproductive all at the same time. After several years, if you wanted to prune out the unproductive canes, nearly the entire bush would have to be removed. And no young growth

would be present to replace the lost fruiting wood."

"Experience is the best guide on how much to prune," Strik added. Strik recommends the following steps for pruning highbush blueberries:

- Remove the low growth that would touch the ground when loaded with fruit. Cut out short, soft shoots that develop from the base of the plant late in the season.
- Remove canes and twigs damaged by winter injury, mechanical causes, diseases or insects.
- Cut out weak, twiggy wood from the top and outer parts of the plant. Remove enough from the top to let light down into the plant center.
- If necessary, cut out some (usually one or two) of the older canes. Remove weak canes.
- If your plants tend to overbear, giving numerous small fruits rather than larger ones, thin the fruit buds by tipping back some of the small shoots carrying a heavy load of flower buds. Blueberry flower buds are near the tips of the past season's growth and are large and plump compared to the small scale-like "leaf" buds. 

ROTATING CROPS IN GARDEN MAY HELP FIGHT DISEASE

BY CAROL SAVONEN;

SOURCE: ANN MARIE VANDERZANDEN, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

MANY VEGETABLE AND ORNAMENTAL varieties are susceptible to plant diseases such as verticillium wilt, powdery mildew, early and late blight and club root. These diseases and others can reduce the yield of fruit and vegetable crops and disfigure flowering plants.

Preventing disease is much easier and more effective than treating a disease outbreak once it occurs in your garden. One way home gardeners can help prevent disease outbreaks in their vegetable gardens is to do as farmers do: practice crop rotation.

Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Oregon State University horticulturist and state coordinator of the Master Gardener program, recommends rotating your crops on a four-year basis.

"A four-year rotation also helps prevent the soil from being depleted of nutrients, which in turn can make plants less vigorous and more susceptible to disease," explained VanDerZanden.

VanDerZanden recommends the following rotation plan as being effective:

YEAR 1—Root crops, including carrots, radishes, potatoes, beets, onions and garlic.

YEAR 2—Leaf, seed or fruit crops, including lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, melons, squash and corn.

YEAR 3—A crop from the cabbage family including cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale and Oriental greens.

YEAR 4—Legume crops including peas, beans, fava beans and crimson clover.

A rotation schedule, plus planting disease resistant varieties and good garden clean up, will go a long way in preventing disease outbreaks in your vegetable patch in the years to come. 

MYTHS ~ MIRACLES ~ MARTYRS ~ SAINTS

BY MERRILEE JOHNSON

THERE IS A BRANCH OF LITERATURE that studies the lives and legends of the saints. A patron saint is given a special guardianship. According to research, gardeners are favored with two patrons. The greater known is Fiacre. He was raised in an Irish monastery which, during the seventh century, were great repositories of learning. He educated himself in the practice of healing with herbs. With this knowledge and by his holiness, he unintentionally created a following. The isolation he sought was destroyed and he fled to France.

Fiacre established a hermitage in a cave. He asked the local bishop for land for a garden for food and healing herbs. The bishop granted him as much land as he could entrench in one day. Fiacre chose the land and walked around the perimeter dragging his spade behind him. Trees and bushes were uprooted and falling wherever the spade touched, leaving the earth entrenched. It was proclaimed a miracle by the bishop.

Fiacre died on August 18, 670. His shrine at the Abbey of Breuil is still a place of pilgrimage for those seeking to be healed. His relics, usually bone fragments, have been distributed to churches and cathedrals all across Europe. In



statuary he is represented as a man holding a spade with a basket of vegetables beside him. The feast day for rejoicing in his name is August 30.

The lesser-known of the two patrons of gardeners is Phocas, known as Phocas the Gardener. He was an innkeeper and gardener living near Sinope, a Greek colony on the Black Sea. He gave his surplus crops to feed the poor. He even offered food and shelter to the soldiers sent to execute him for being a Christian. He dug his own grave and was beheaded in 303. His

existence, martyrdom and ancient cult are established facts. He is greatly venerated in the East. The feast day for rejoicing in his name is July 23.

Shall we say myths, miracles, martyrs, saints and gardens? For they are something to wonder over, to marvel at, containing extraordinary events that surpass all known human powers. They appeal to the senses, to the spirit and to the imagination. They remind us that life is unknowable. Yet, they keep the heart yearning for more. 

Merrilee Johnson is an artist and writer who recently moved to Talent, Oregon.

CHANGE IS GOOD

A New Garden Notes Editor

SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, Richard Hartlage uttered some of the sweetest words a volunteer newsletter editor can hear, "I have an article if you need one..." and running a close second to that (Richard wins again) are, "Edit it any way you want to." As I (gleefully) turn over the responsibility of the newsletter to the talented Debra Prinzing, I want to thank my exhausted friends, contacts and contributors who helped me fill *Garden Notes* with articles of interest to our membership. So many of you contributed your writing, photos, information, slides, time and knowledge that I cannot list all of your names without bumping one of the articles in this issue. I will try to thank you in person as I run into you during all of the free time I'm expecting to have. Two other friends deserve special mention: Robert Riffle who continues to teach me what I need to know to communicate intelligently with the horticultural community and Dick Brown who dropped everything and gave each issue a final and thorough proofreading in the remaining minutes before the printing deadline. Also, Constance Bollen of CB Graphics complemented my ideas with her skill and talent to change the face of the newsletter; and Mike Klink of Impression Printing taught me a thing or two about color, ink, paper and printing. Thank you all—it was fun. And now, certainly to the great relief of my neighbors, I'm going to go putter in my own garden for awhile. —Diane Laird

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

NOVEMBER 2000

WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER my term as NHS President ended. I leave the organization in the most capable hands of our new President, Richard Hartlage. Hardly an unfamiliar name to NHS members, Richard has been responsible for the Education Program over the past three years. Response has been MOST enthusiastic to the many lectures, workshops, symposia, classes and tours put together under his leadership. Many new members have been drawn to these activities. Stay tuned in to further innovations!

Taking a cue from the Oscar presentations, I'd like to thank everyone who helped during the last 1½ years. (Now that's an odd term of office you say. The By-Laws were changed last spring to end the organizational year in December rather than June. The fiscal and organization year now coincide.) Since that's not possible, let me note a few of the major activities:

- **Education Committee** chaired by Richard Hartlage and his highly creative committee members.
- The **Library Support Committee** which produced an Evening in Tuscany 5th annual auction co-chaired by Daniel Zatz and Anne Johnson. It was magnifico!! As a result of the auction, a check for \$28,500 was deposited in the Seattle Foundation for the Elisabeth C. Miller Horticultural Library. An additional \$10,000 match from the Miller Foundation went directly to the Library.
- **Fall Plant Sales** were held in September 1999 and 2000. Both years, nearly \$10,000 profit went into the NHS coffers. Laurie Colman and Theresa Malmanger co-chaired the 2000 sale. They enjoyed it so much, they've agreed to chair it again in 2001!
- I was most fortunate to have a creative, supportive Board.
- Finally, a special THANK YOU to Karin Kravitz, without whom I could not have been President. Karin is the staff par excellence and I cannot thank her enough.

Ann LeVasseur

ANN LEVASSEUR, PAST PRESIDENT

JANUARY 2001

I THINK I KNOW A LITTLE HOW PRESIDENT ELECT BUSH is feeling these days. I must say I did get a bit of a jump on him as my election wasn't contested nor have I had problems with cabinet appointments. The executive committee has been nominated and approved, the lifer, Karin, seems content with the new administration so we are off and running.

NHS is in fine shape currently, finances are in order, committee positions are all filled and planning for the coming year is well underway. My primary goal for this year will be to assess the mission of the organization. It will be essential for us to take a hard look at our strengths, weaknesses and build consensus for our future direction. If you have concerns or suggestions feel free to e-mail me at: richardh@millergarden.org or call 206-362-8612.

NHS is a volunteer organization and is essential to maintain that vitality with your involvement and support. I will look forward to working with each of you and look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to express my gratitude to Ann LeVasseur for the fine work she has done in keeping NHS organized and moving forward and to Diane Laird who, after several years, is turning over the role of the newsletter editor to Debra Prinzing. Diane has created a newsletter that is information-packed and delightful to read at the same time. Thank you for all the hard work and job well done.

Richard W. Hartlage

RICHARD W. HARTLAGE, PRESIDENT

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